



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AMENDMENT "A" PRIOR TO ACTION

APPLICANTS: Hetzer et al

SERIAL NO.: 09/723,080 GROUP ART UNIT: 2121

DATE FILED: November 27, 2000

INVENTION: "METHOD FOR PIRACY PROTECTION OF  
AN APPARATUS AND ARRANGEMENT  
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE METHOD"

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Applicants herewith amend the above application as follows, and request entry of the amendment prior to examination on the merits.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 3, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 11 as follows:

--German PS 196 13 945 discloses a device for preventing re-employment of a container for the ink supply of an ink print head. An ink connecting line from the ink print head is docked to the container with a hollow needle via a rubber-elastic closure. One cover mechanism is irreversibly triggered by the hollow needle when the container is pulled off. A refilled ink reservoir can no longer be docked. Unfortunately, this solution also prevents the re-employment of containers filled with original ink. The used ink tanks only can be returned to the dealer or the manufacturer's service department for proper disposal. It is a disadvantage when even a recycled consumable offered by the manufacturer cannot be re-employed. The use of exactly copied pirated ink reservoirs, unfortunately, can not be avoided with this known arrangement. A distinction between original consumable and unauthorized copies thereof is required for that purpose. A consumable that was not checked by the manufacturer or approved by the manufacturer represents a risk to the legibility of the franking imprint. The franking imprint must be capable of being read visually and by machine by the postal authorities in order to be